

Meteor-Heraut

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Quick Read



The SHAPE and Chièvres holiday tree lighting is Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m., at the PX parking lot. Free photos with Santa in the PX. Holiday bazaar Dec. 3-5 at the Community Activity Center; **The NSA holiday tree lighting** is Dec. 3 at Brussels American School. The Children's Concert is in the MPR at 4:30 p.m., Santa arrives at 5:15 p.m., and the tree lighting is at 6:30 p.m. The Brussels Community Band and Chorus perform at 7 p.m. Info: DSN 368-9639 or 02 717-9639; **The 254th BSB holiday tree lighting** is Dec. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Pictures with Santa and amusement rides follow. The Torch Club serves hot drinks and goodies for donations. Info: DSN 364-3595 or 31 45 526-3595.

Belgium

Holiday concert set
SHAPE International Band performs holiday concerts Dec. 3-4, 7 p.m.; and Dec. 5, 3 p.m. at SHAPE Entertainment Centre. Info: 423-4257.

Native Americans celebrate
White Eagle Dancers, a dance and cultural group, performs Dec. 4, 7 p.m., at Three Star Lounge in Brussels. Info: 361-5276.

Holidays celebrated
The quarterly NSA awards ceremony and holiday party is Dec. 10, 1-5 p.m. at Three Star Lounge in Brussels. Info: DSN 368-9639.

Netherlands and Germany

Concert planned
The 76th United States Army Band performs in concert Dec. 15 in Brunssum. Seating is limited. For more information call the 254th Base Support Bn. Public Affairs Office, DSN 360-7585 or 31 46 443-7585.

Holiday party set
The 254th Base Support Bn. Christmas party is Dec. 16, noon-4:30 p.m. Tickets are Euro 10 and are sold until Dec. 6. Info: DSN 360-7445.

B-Ball court opens
Schinnen MWR hosts a three-on-three basketball tournament and opening ceremonies for the new basketball court, Dec. 11, 3 p.m., at Schinnen Sports and Fitness Center. Info: DSN 360-7560 or 46 444-7560.

Ohio Guard ends deployment

By Rick Haverinen

The military communities of the 80th Area Support Group in Chièvres and Brussels, Belgium and Schinnen, the Netherlands, got to say thank you to Ohio National Guard Soldiers from Task Force Reaper Sentinel Nov. 23 at a farewell and awards ceremony on Daumerie Caserne.

The Soldiers from 1st Bn., 134th Field Artillery Regiment had been protecting area installations since arriving in Europe March 1.

Col. Dean Nowowiejski, 80th ASG commander, noted that during their deployment, the task force experienced seven births and six family members who passed away while the Soldiers were separated from their homes.

"There are life experiences that take place while Soldiers are deployed, so they pay a price to be here to keep us safe," Nowowiejski said, "and I just want to say thanks."

Nowowiejski said community residents have become accustomed to having our gates made secure by Task Force Reaper Sentinel and their predecessors.

"Think back to where you were on Sept. 11, 2001," Nowowiejski urged. "It was one of those defining sea change moments in our country's history. We were going on with business. We had emerged from fighting the Cold War victoriously. The Army and the Dept. of Defense became pretty secure about our future and what we were doing. I remember briefings that said there is no strategic threat on the horizon, and America's going to reign supreme. And then we had 19 crazy guys fly some airplanes into buildings. And it hasn't been the same since then. We're involved in a total war on terror."



Fenstermaker



In one of the longest reception lines ever seen on Daumerie Caserne, members of U.S. military communities in the Benelux nations filed by Ohio National Guard Soldiers from 1st Bn., 134th Field Artillery Regiment, to thank them for their force protection work.

"They have come here and paid the price to help defend our country and I just want to



PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

Col. Dean Nowowiejski, commander of the 80th Area Support Group, shares a casual moment with Sgt. Dwayne Barnes in a ceremony Nov. 23 on Daumerie Caserne in Chièvres. In left background is Sgt. Harold Stumph and at far right is Sgt. Kurt Landis. All three 1st Bn., 134th Field Artillery Regiment, Soldiers were awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

say that I appreciate the fact that every day I get up, and I go somewhere in the footprint of the 80th area Support Group, I have a Soldier there willing to be standing guard, doing their job. They have a good attitude all the time. They're out there 24-7 in all kinds of weather. This group has been here in the middle of the summer, and it's gone from warm to being cold."

Nowowiejski said the Soldiers stayed out of trouble and also had a chance to see some of Europe.

"I hope they have some great memories, but they always did their duty," Nowowiejski said, "and those of us back here, we're used to coming through the gate, getting checked, sometimes getting pulled over. They're doing their random access measures, checking out your vehicle, checking your ID card. But they always had a smile and we've gotten used to the security. And this whole ceremony today is about saying thank you and we appreciate what you did. And we recognize that you've been a part of a very active combat against terrorism. Someday you'll be old and you'll remember being here nine months away from home, and I want you to feel proud of that."

80th ASG Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Rogers presented awards related to the National Guard Soldiers helping emergency personnel July 30 at a devastating gas line explosion in Ghislenghien in which over 20 were killed and more than 100 others were seriously injured.

The 1st of the 134th F.A. Soldiers helped treat burn victims, searched for casualties, directed victims to treatment areas and directed vehicular traffic. Rogers presented the Army Achievement Medal to Spc. Vaughn Hoblet and Spc. Douglas Purdy. Rogers also awarded Certificates of Achievement to 10 additional Task Force

Reaper Sentinel Soldiers.

Nowowiejski presented the Army Commem-

dation Medal to: Spc. James Eakins, 1st Sgt. Bryan Archer, Staff Sgt. Devin Gradwell, Staff Sgt. Dean Grundei, Spc. Ryan Kilgour, and Sgt. Thomas Foltz.



Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Bn. commander, thanks 'Reaper Sentinel' Soldiers for their help.

Nowowiejski presented the Army Achievement Medal to: Sgt. Jeff Chance, Staff Sgt. Matthew Gaugler, Staff Sgt. Michael Noll, Sgt.

Dwayne Barnes, Sgt. Lawrence Hillebrand, Sgt. Brandon Kopp, Sgt. Kurt Landis, Sgt. Harold Stumph, Spc. Bryan Debolt, Spc. Michael Jones, Spc. Michael O'Hara, Spc. Demetra Ross, Spc. Clyde Tinch, Spc. Ross Willis, Spc. William Bundy and Staff Sgt. Matthew Gaugler.

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Bn. commander, presented Certificates of Appreciation to 12 task force Soldiers.

Lt. Col. Jon Davis, commander of NATO Support Activity in Brussels presented NATO Certificates to the task force and to 1st Lt. Don Flowers.

Capt. Robert Fenstermaker, Task Force Reaper Sentinel, named Staff Sgt. Dean Grundei as NCO of the Deployment, and Spc. Ryan Kilgour as Soldier of the Deployment. Both Soldiers are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.



Davis



Rogers

Nowowiejski Notes



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, 80th ASG Commander

Here in the Benelux, we had a safe and memorable Thanksgiving season. I enjoyed visiting several different venues where personnel of all ranks and services and their families celebrated the holiday together. These ranged from a very well-run holiday meal by Brunssum volunteers to a top-quality traditional Thanksgiving feast in the U.S. Army NATO dining facility on SHAPE. The Soldiers of Team Benelux of Task Force Reaper Sentinel enjoyed a memorable holiday meal together courtesy of Army MWR at Chièvres. What we do to give thanks together as an extended family reaches across the Benelux to other locations, such as Geilenkirchen Air Base. It's all a sense of family and a taste of home to kick off the holiday season, and best of all - it was done Safely.

I challenge you to continue the Holiday Safety focus as we continue through December. The web page at <http://www.80asg.army.mil> contains several holiday safety reminders in links on the right side of the page. They are specific to the season, both in terms of holiday considerations, such as fire prevention at Christmas, and to the time of year, in terms of winter safety. We are well into the season of risk where you must be prepared for ice and snow and capable of handling being stranded in the cold in your car.

Winter safety ties to something else very much on my mind here in early December. Within the next two weeks, we will begin the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the

Bulge which has received much coverage in this newspaper, Stars and Stripes, and elsewhere. Again, there is information on our Web page on the left side, including specific event dates and times. This Anniversary connects to safety because it will be celebrated in the Ardennes region of Belgium. If you have not visited the Ardennes before, you will find some unique driving challenges there. Roads will customarily be icy, especially in the forest valley floors, and there are many near-hairpin turns. Winds will whip up loose snow in the forests and limit visibility. Don't get me wrong, the 60th Anniversary is worth visiting, you just need to account for driving in the Ardennes. You will need to equip your vehicle for driving in fog and snow, and take your time.

Finally, at this same time our Combined Federal Campaign drive is winding up. It has been extended until mid-December. Again, I might suggest that if you have not received a donation booklet, ask for one, and your leaders must make every effort to get it to you. The giving opportunities speak for themselves.

Let's remember those families here whose Soldier spouses are deployed, as well as those in need within our community, such as the orphans from last summer's gas line explosion in Ghislenghien, Belgium, as we continue in this Holiday season. Best wishes to the Army and Navy football teams as they continue their storied rivalry tomorrow in Philadelphia and on AFN in their 105th meeting.

Abuse of common chemical causes death

Bell Sends #6-05

24 November 2004

SAFETY ALERT

Soldier Chemical Abuse

1. Bell Sends 5-05 provided information on a Soldier who had crashed his car while driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. He was killed in the crash and his passenger was paralyzed. We recently received information on another Soldier who died in October. The Soldier was found dead in his barracks room after failing to show up for work. He was lying facedown on his bed; a small amount of blood and vomit was on his pillow.

2. Although his death is still under investigation, it appears the Soldier may have died while trying to get high. Preliminary autopsy results indicate that the cause of death was poisoning from difluoroethane, which is a chemical found in aerosol cleaning sprays. A can of dust-off aerosol cleaning spray containing difluoroethane was found in the Soldier's room.

3. Aerosols are only one type of inhalant that people commonly use to get high. Others include cleaning fluid, glue, nail-polish remover, and rubber cement. Most in-

halants depress the nervous system. Symptoms that often accompany their use include light-headedness, numbness, a feeling of excitement, and a temporary sensation of well-being. The alcohol-like effects also include giddiness, lack of coordination, loss of inhibition, slowed reflexes, slurred speech, and weakness. As with alcohol, inhalants often cause depression and users may not remember events or their behavior afterwards. People who use inhalants can often be identified by the odor of a solvent on their breath or clothing, which can linger for several hours.

4. Acute effects from the use of inhalants include coughing and sneezing; decreased respiratory rate; drowsiness; headache; irritated eyes, mouth, and nose; lack of concentration; nausea and vomiting; and thirst and salivation. Inhalants can be especially dangerous when a user exerts him- or herself or becomes excited after inhaling. Some

of the more dangerous effects of inhalants include severe breathing difficulties and irregular heartbeat, which can result in sudden death. Aerosols can also freeze the larynx and lungs, which causes the user to suffocate.



Gen. B. B. Bell

5. Using inhalants can cause serious harm, including brain damage, chromosomal abnormalities, confusion, depression, fatigue, kidney damage, lung damage, paranoia, tremors, and weight loss. The damage caused by using inhalants is sometimes irreversible.

6. Leaders: I ask that you increase your awareness of the signs of drug and chemical abuse, including the use of inhalants. Seek out and identify Soldiers who may be using drugs or engaging in other high-risk activities. Demonstrate your commitment to their welfare by arranging for counseling when appropriate. The USAREUR Leaders Guide to Post-Reintegration (at <http://www.per.hq.usareur.army.mil/postreintegration/index.htm>) lists contact

information for Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) and other counseling and prevention resources available in your community.

7. Soldiers: I ask that you reaffirm your commitment to uphold Army standards. If you observe fellow Soldiers abusing drugs or chemicals, please ensure that they get the help they need to stop—their lives may depend on it. Remember, professional Soldiers do not abuse drugs, drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or needlessly place their lives or the lives of others at risk. We must live the Warrior Ethos on and off duty.

8. Ensure that this safety alert is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on bulletin boards. "No Loss of Life" is our goal. I want every Soldier to read this message and reaffirm his or her commitment to uphold the Army's standards and values as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Telephone system consolidates operator service in Heidelberg

The Chièvres Dial Service Assistance closed Nov. 30. This service had provided the SHAPE and Chièvres military communities with Operator assistance since the 1970s, Brussels for the last decade and Schinnen for more than two years.

The continuous progress of telecommunication technologies allows USAREUR to accomplish another Army transformation goal – to

concentrate switchboard operator services in a single location within the theater. As of Dec. 1,



military telephone customers now get Operator service from Heidelberg

Dial Service Assistance.

To reach Operator, the numbers remain unchanged for our customers located in Belgium and Netherlands.

To call the military Operator from on-post telephones in Chièvres, Schinnen, Brussels or SHAPE (U.S. System,) dial 0 or 112 or 113.

To dial military Operator from the DSN Network dial: in Chièvres, 361-1110; in Schinnen, 360-1110; in Brussels, 368-1110; in SHAPE (U.S.), 366-1110.

To dial military Operator

from the local commercial inland network dial: in Chièvres, 068 27-5111; in Schinnen, 046 443-7199; in Brussels, 02 717-9811; in SHAPE (U.S.), 065 32-6111.

To speed up directory information searches, customers can save the following shortcuts on web browsers - For European DSN information, <https://phonebook.2sigbde.army.mil/index.html>; For worldwide DSN directory information, http://www.disa.mil/gs/dsn/dsn_dir_use.html; For commercial

(Belgium) information, White pages, <http://www.1307.be/> or Yellow pages, <http://www.goldenpages.be/>; For commercial (Netherlands) information, <http://www.detelefoongids.nl/index.html>

For customers that are behind the SHAPE NATO switch, also known as "the 423 switch," operator service remains, as it is provided by NCSA-Sector Mons.

For more information regarding the Chièvres DSA closure, call the 39th Signal Bn., Network Service Center, DSN 361-5128.

Dept. of Defense finds some resolution of ACLU lawsuit regarding Boy Scouts

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Nov. 18, 2004) — The partial settlement Nov. 15 of an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against DoD allows the military to continue supporting the Boy Scouts of America, as long as commands don't officially sponsor Scout units.

The ACLU lawsuit, filed in 1999, al-

leges that the Boy Scouts religiously discriminate because the Scout Oath requires youth swear to do their duty to God and country.

The partial settlement requires Pentagon leadership to issue a letter reminding commands of its policy: DoD and its personnel can't sponsor non-federal organi-

zations while in their official capacity.

The ACLU also points out the Pentagon donates approximately \$2 million to the Boy Scouts for their quadrennial national Jamboree, which will be held this year July 25 through Aug. 3 at Fort A.P. Hill.

"The Boy Scout Jamboree will still go

on as scheduled at Fort A.P. Hill," said Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. Joe Richard. "We are still fully supporting the Boy Scouts. But, we are reminding base commanders and post officials they can't sponsor non-federal organizations in their official capacity. It's not a new policy, but we are reminding people."

Joint Force Command HQ Brunssum has new name, structure and mission

By Capt. Mike Nicholas

On July 1, 2004, Allied Forces North Europe (AFNORTH) ceased to exist, and in its place is Joint Force Command (JFC) Headquarters, Brunssum. This is more than just a mere name change for the Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) buildings and offices located in Brunssum, it is part of a major realignment of forces and command restructuring that NATO is undertaking.

The restructuring process was initiated during the Prague Summit in November of 2002. During the Summit, Alliance members decided to change the current structure of NATO commands in order to more effectively handle the security challenges of the 21st century. NATO's operational headquarters will no longer be tied to regional areas, giving NATO greater flexibility with the commands.

Restructuring the command is not a small task and will be completed over the course of many months. Preparations for the changes have been ongoing for some time and will be completed in stages throughout the year. July 1st is seen as the major turning point between the previous command structure of AFNORTH to the new command structure of JFC Brunssum.

The restructuring process began on June 12, 2003. NATO Alliance defense ministers agreed upon a new design that would streamline the current NATO military command structure. This process has been initiated through a series of visionary initiatives which reflect the needs of the Alliance in the post-Cold War environment. The name change between AFNORTH and JFC Brunssum is just one part of the overall process. Preparations for the restructuring of AFNORTH began earlier in the year and will continue even after the official name change for the headquarters. Some of the changes include changes to subordinate commands, duties and responsibilities of personnel, as well as office moves to name just a few. July 1st is seen as the turning point between the regionally-based Allied Forces Command North to Joint Force Command Brunssum. The entire restructuring process of JFC Brunssum is expected to be completed by June 2005.

Allied Command Transformation

Allied Command Transformation (ACT) is responsible for the transformation of NATO and is commanded by the Supreme Allied Command Transformation who also serves as the Commander U.S. Joint Forces Command. ACT develops capabilities, doctrine, and defense planning and training to be used by NATO. They support Allied Command Operations (ACO) on training, interoperability and provide lessons learned as well as support nations on their own transformation and defense planning. ACT's vision statement states, "We are NATO's forcing agent for change, leading the continuous improvement of Alliance capabilities to uphold NATO's global security interests."

ACT has developed a Bi-Ss Strategic Vision, given military advice to NATO

Headquarters (HQ), commenced concepts-to-capabilities scoping, advanced NATO network enabled capabilities, developed a NATO intelligence plan and executed an ACT strategic management plan. One of the main ideas ACT conveys is that transformation is a continuing and ongoing process, and not a destination.

Joint Force Commands

JFC HQ Brunssum, JFC Naples and JC Lisbon are the three Joint Operational Headquarters in NATO. JFC Brunssum and JFC Naples both have three component commands; separate Air, Land, and Maritime commands. JC Lisbon is the third Joint

and all the names include the use of HQ including JFC HQ Brunssum. JFC Brunssum is used when talking of all four commands.

CC-AIR is located in Ramstein, Germany, and was formerly called Headquarters Allied Forces Air North. It is commanded by General Robert H. Fogelsong, US Air Force, and has over 800 military and civilian personnel from 13 different countries.

CC-LAND is located at Heidelberg, Germany, and was formerly called Joint Headquarters Centre. It is commanded by General B.B. Bell, US Army, and has over 500 military personnel from 13 different nations.



PHOTO: Martin Hendriks

Mathieu Meyers prepares one of the new Joint Force Command Headquarters signs.

Command headquarters which is capable of deploying a sea-based Detached Joint Task Force (DJTF) headquarters.

The Joint Force Commands can deploy in either a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) or a Detached Joint Task Force. Both concepts equip the Alliance with command and control capabilities taken from within the JFC's that can be projected to other areas if needed. The DJTF concept involves a deployable headquarters of over 100 personnel while the CJTF is a more robust deployable headquarters with over 500. Both the DJTF and the CJTF are concepts that are continually being worked on and modified through exercises such as the recent Flexible Fullback to provide JFC Brunssum with the best response possible for any mission.

JFC Brunssum is the name for the entire JFC command to include the subordinate commands. JFC Brunssum's primary mission continues to be the support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. Some of the other missions include ongoing training and exercises and support of the NATO Response Force.

Component Commands

JFC Brunssum consists of three component commands (CC); CC-AIR HQ Ramstein, CC-LAND HQ Heidelberg, and CC-MAR HQ Northwood. Component Command is normally abbreviated with CC

CC-MAR (Maritime) is located in Northwood, United Kingdom and was formerly called Headquarters Allied Naval Forces North. It is commanded by Admiral Sir Jonathon Band KCB, U.K. Navy, and has about 280 personnel.

Joint Headquarters Northeast in Karup, Denmark, fell under AFNORTH but due to the restructuring was deactivated in a ceremony on June 16th.

NATO Response Force

The NATO Response Force (NRF) can be tailored to meet the needs of a specific mission and is able to move quickly whenever and wherever it is needed. NATO Heads of State and Government approved the establishment of the NRF at the 2002 Prague Summit. Its initial operational capability was to be reached as soon as possible, but not later than October 2004, while the full operational capability will be reached not later than October 2006.

The NRF is designed to be able to carry out different types of missions on its own, or serve as part of a larger force. The aim is to make the NRF have approximately 21,000 troops and be able to deploy anywhere in the world within five days. The size and composition of the NRF is continually looked at and subject to refinement until it reaches its full operational capability in 2006.

The NRF was stood up at AFNORTH

on October 15, 2003, and demonstrated its capabilities in the mock crisis response Allied Response that was held in Turkey in Nov. 2002. Troops from 11 countries were deployed in air, land and sea-based operations. Responsibility for the NRF will change in its first rotation to JFC Naples in June.

The NRF is also seen as a way of promoting better cooperation between militaries of different nations and be a catalyst for improvements in the Alliance military capabilities.

International Security Assistance Force

One of the primary operations that JFC Brunssum continues to have is leading the ISAF mission. ISAF is the NATO-led, UN-mandated operation in Afghanistan that was established to assist the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) in maintaining security. ISAF is NATO's first out-of-area operation and is in line with NATO's transformation to meet the new threats of the 21st century. JFC Brunssum will continue to work the challenges of the expansion of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT's) in Afghanistan, and improvements to Kabul International Airport (KAIA).

Overall responsibility of the ISAF mission lies with JFC Brunssum. The ISAF mission has been divided into 6-month rotations with individual nations or organizations volunteering to take the lead. The Canadian delegation is currently in the lead for ISAF V, as Eurocorps took command of ISAF VI in early August. The JFC Brunssum command continues to provide all types of support and guidance for every ISAF rotation to help support the Government of Afghanistan as they rebuild their nation.

The Future

The following has been taken from the NATO document, "NATO Transformed: "As the Alliance continues to enlarge, NATO will have to accommodate the interests of an increasing number of countries trying to act in unison. At the same time, the zone of stability within Europe will likely have grown and with it the prospects of economic prosperity. Indeed, as the Alliance forges closer relations with Russia, Ukraine and other European countries, Europe is putting its divided past behind it and becoming an increasingly stable continent.

These positive trends will have to be carefully nurtured. While the nature of the threats faced by member states and the way in which NATO organizes itself to deal with them are changing, the fundamental underpinning of the Alliance remains the same as it always has been. NATO provides a transatlantic political-military framework for managing security challenges. The Alliance couples Europe and North America, and balances a multitude of national interests. Moreover, as NATO evolved from a collective defense shield into a security manager in the broadest sense, it has come to represent a community of values, such as democracy and human rights, as much as a community of interests.

This story first appeared in the JFC Northern Star in July.

Schinnen AAFES manager responds to exchange service questions

Lt. Col. Richards S. Richardson hosted a 254th Base Support Bn. Town Hall meeting Nov. 4. Richardson and his staff addressed concerns and answered participants' questions regarding community projects and issues.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, Richardson asked that anyone having additional questions forward them to his office for reply. Fol-

lowing are questions that pertained to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and were addressed by Rick Fair, the AAFES manager.

• *Is it possible to arrange the BDU sets in the Shoppette in alphabetical order to make it more convenient for customers to locate their uniforms?* Fair said that it could and will be done. Also, he said that the service is working on

a contract to reduce lead time and have this service done in the Netherlands instead of Germany.

• *Why is the dog food Eukanuba removed from stock as it is very expensive on the local economy?* Management is dealing with limited space, Fair said. The PXTRA management reviewed sales history of premium pet food and found Hills (Science Diet)

was the better seller so the decision was made to continue to carry that line. Eukanuba is stocked in some of our sister stores and can be special ordered for delivery to Schinnen.

• *Is there a vacuum cleaner available for car interiors at the gas station and is it working properly?* Fair stated there is and it does work. Unfortunately it is very dif-

ficult to access due to temporary storage buildings for the commissary. If customers ever experience trouble with a vending-type machine, please notify management so it can be repaired. Also, refunds for malfunctioning vending machines are available at the PX cashiers cage. Please provide the number listed on the front of the machine for refund.

254th BSB says farewell to Ohio protectors



Sgt. John Reed performs a complete check in a recent 100 percent inspection check of vehicles entering the Emma Mine Complex.

PHOTO: Sylvia Bowron

By Sylvia Bowron

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Bn., 134th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Reaper Sentinel, were honored with a farewell ceremony in Schinnen Nov. 22 marking the end of their historic nine-month deployment to the Netherlands, where they provided security to the 254th Base Support Bn. community.

"The unit is a large contingent of personnel divided into teams and geographically dispersed between the Netherlands, Belgium and England where they work as security details," said Master Sgt. Richard Farmer, the Schinnen's team supervisor. "1st Lt. Flowers, our platoon leader, is in Brussels, but our on site direction comes from the 254th BSB because they are actually the military police element on post," said the 46 year-old electronics technician.

Farmer has been an active guard member for 23 years. "Most of us here are actually communications Soldiers," said the Cincinnati native. "At drills we maintain the communications equipment and do trouble shooting with radios and telephones. Before coming to the Netherlands, the unit attended a month-long training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. on basic homeland security, which primarily emphasized conducting searches," he concluded.

"Security force is a task all Soldiers are given basic-level training to do," said Spc. Matthew Bevilacqua from Newark, Ohio. "Basically, it's guard duty."

Bevilacqua worked with multiple-launch rocket systems while on active duty, and is training to work in communications. "I was in for seven years and decided I was done. I went back to Ohio," said the 32 year-old. "I reenlisted in the guard after 9-11, and two months later, I was deployed for a year and a half to Fort Knox, Ky. I was back six months and now I'm here," he said.

Bevilacqua has enjoyed his tour here, particularly the opportunity to meet members from different NATO forces. "Many of us have never been overseas before, and it has been a real treat," said Bevilacqua. "You really wouldn't have the opportunity to experience this many different types of cultures all at once, unless you're at an elite academic college. I've met military forces from Germany, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands, and we all talked about what our countries were like," he concluded.

When Bevilacqua returns to the States he is considering applying for full time National Guard duty or applying for overseas private contract work in Kosovo.

For Sgt. John Reed, 27, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, this was his first time overseas. "I'm full-time guard and the battalions' retention NCO," Reed said. "While I've been here, I've gone to Barcelona, Spain and been able to travel through Europe," he concluded. A member of the Guard for the past eight years, Reed attends Ohio University in Lancaster, and wants to teach secondary math.

Not all of the unit's members are full-time Guard. Spc. Ray Ross, a materials manager for orthopedic surgery at Grants Hospital in Columbus, plans a career in the Guard. When he is not at work, attending Guard drills or deployed,

he attends Franklin Univ. where he majors in business administration. Ross has cited travel and his interaction with the Dutch people as the high point of being in the Netherlands. "The people are really nice, and I like the atmosphere here in the Netherlands," said the 32 year-old.

Sgt. Brandon Kopp, a graduate of North Dakota Univ., has been a Guard member for seven and a half years. "After receiving my bachelors' degrees in psychology and sociology, I moved back home to Ohio and started attending Ohio State Univ. working towards my PhD in Social Psychology," stated the Columbus native. The university is paying the 27 year-old as he continues his education. Kopp said he has enjoyed being here and being able to travel through Europe.

"Travel! Some of these guys really didn't take advantage of that while they were here, or didn't do much of it," chuckled Staff Sgt. Cory Clifford of Medina, Ohio. When not attending drills, Clifford works for the City of Medina Water Department. "I had my girlfriend fly here to visit a couple of times while I was here. After the long flight, she didn't want to fly anymore, so I rented a car so we could travel," said the 35-year-old. When she wasn't here, Clifford made the best of his free time visiting many places throughout Europe. "I've traveled a lot," Clifford said proudly. "I've been to Bruges; Brussels; Gent; Mons, Belgium (several times); Venice; Dublin, twice; Salzburg Austria; and Munich's Oktoberfest, just to name a few," he added.

For Clifford, the worst thing while he was here was not having the foresight to purchase a vehicle when he got here. "I could have saved myself a lot of money by getting a car when I first arrived. I probably would have been able to do more traveling that way!"

Many members of the Schinnen community are sad to see the Soldiers go, but know the Soldiers are looking forward to going home. Most Soldiers of Task Force Reaper Sentinel enjoyed their tour here in the Netherlands and enjoyed the people here at Schinnen. Many of the people here at Schinnen expressed their thanks to these Soldiers by having small get-togethers for them.

"Going away ceremonies have been a trickling of ongoing events with people off post, or military personnel that put something together here on post," said Spc. Bevilacqua. "We have attended two thank-you luncheons, two thank-you dinners, and separate elements have come by and put things together for us. It seems everybody wants to personalize their thank-you. It's nice, and really appreciated by all of us," he said. "We leave satisfied because people here have shown their appreciation for us being here," Bevilacqua concluded.

Leisure Activities compiled by Rita Hoefnagels

Dec. 2-5: *Country Life Fair* at RAI in Amsterdam with food, decorations, gifts, antiques, china, and more. Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: •14. Info: 31 20 585-4411.

Dec. 3-Jan. 2: Belgium's largest *Christmas Market* with more than 220 stands, rides, ice-skating rink and more at Sint-Katelijneplein and Vismarkt in Brussels' center. Open weekdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; and weekends, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Dec. 4-5: *Christmas Bazaar* at Sint-Andriesabdij (abbey) on Zevenkerken 4 in Sint-Andries Brugge (Belgium).

Dec. 4-30: *Christmas Market* at Place du Marché in Liege (Belgium).

Dec. 5-12: Large *National Art and Antique Fair* at RAI, Amsterdam. Entry: Euro 12.50. Info: 31 411 64-4440 or www.pan-amsterdam.nl.

Dec. 7-12: *Christmas at Castle Middachten*, near De Steeg (NL), is beautifully decorated. A *Christmas market* is in the outbuildings. Open: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Entry: •8.

Dec. 8-12: *Christmas Market* at Hoover- and Ladeuzeplein in Leuven (Belgium). Open 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Dec. 9-12: *Christmas Fair* at Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerdt Estate near Beesd (NL). Open Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro

8. *Christmas at Castle Cannenburch*, in the Dutch town of Vaassen, beautifully decorated, an attractive inn is in the cellars and the shop has many holiday items. A *Christmas Market* is in the forecourt.

Dec. 10: *Christmas Market* in the center of picturesque Hattem (NL).

Dec. 10-19: *Christmas Market* at Sint-Baafsplein in Gent (Belgium).

Dec. 10-24: *Christmas Market* at Groenplaats in Antwerpen (Belgium).

Dec. 11-12: Large indoor *Christmas Market* at Rijnhallen in Arnhem (NL).

Dec. 14: *Candle-Night in Gouda (NL)*. Thousands of candles are lit behind the windows of the beautiful town hall. Featured is lighting the huge Christmas tree.

Dec. 16-18: Large indoor *Christmas Market* in Lebuïnuskerk (Church) at Kleine Poot 7. Open: Dec. 16, 2-9 p.m.; Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 1.50.

Dec. 17-19: *Christmas Market* in the center of Dordrecht (NL).

Dec. 18-19: *Dickens Fest*. The center of Deventer (NL) is changed into a city from Dickens' time. **Dec. 19**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., adds a *Christ-*

mas Market.

Christmas Market at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open: Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Entry: Euro 4.50.

Thru Dec. 19: *Christmas Market* at "Gemeentegrot" (Cave) in Valkenburg (NL). Open: weekdays,

Thru Dec. 21: *Christmas Market* in beautiful Monschau (GE). Open only Fridays, 2-9 p.m.; and Saturdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Christmas Market at "Fluwelengrot" (Cave) in Valkenburg (NL). Till Dec. 6, weekdays, 2-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. From Dec. 6, weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; and weekends, 11 a.m.-



PHOTO: Brugge City Tourist Office

Brugge, Belgium, offers distinctive architecture to go with hot spiced wine at the Christmas market in the city center through Jan.1.

noon-9 p.m.; and weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Info: 31 43 601-2271.

Dec. 19: *Christmas at Castle Alden Biesen*. The castle and gardens at Bilzen in Belgium are transformed into a romantic Christmas scene. Open: 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

9 p.m. Entry: Euro 3.50; children (4-12) Euro 1.75. Info: 31 43 609-0110.

Thru Dec. 22 - Christmas Markets: on Schadowplatz in Düsseldorf center (GE); around "Porta Nigra" (black gate built by Romans) in Trier center (GE).

Thru Dec. 23 - Christmas Markets: at the town hall in Aachen (GE); at Münsterplatz in Bonn center (GE); around the cathedral in the center of Cologne (GE); at Vrijthof and Domini-canerkerk in the center of Maastricht (NL).

Thru Jan. 1: *Christmas Market* at Market Square (daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m.) and Simon Stevin Square (daily 11 a.m.-7 p.m.) in the center of beautiful Brugge, Belgium.

Thru Jan. 2: *Winterland Maastricht* at Vrijthof in Maastricht center (NL). Young and old have winter fun at the beautifully-decorated Vrijthof square and surrounding streets. Info: 31 43 325-2121.

Thru Jan. 9: "The Mysterious Bog People" exhibition at "Drents" Museum in Assen (NL). An archeological exhibition of artifacts, including mummified bodies, from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. Info: 31 592 37-7773 or www.bogpeople.org.

Thru Feb. 13: *Nicholas and Alexandra Exhibition* at Hermitage, Nieuwe Herengracht 14, in Amsterdam, tells the story of the last Tsar of Russia and his family. Entry: •6. Info: 31 20 530-8751.

Thru Sept. 4: *Mummies*, spectacular exhibition at Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (NL). Info: www.rmo.nl.

Lafayette statue 'une cause célèbre'



PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

The statue of Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, is unveiled Nov. 20 in Metz, France, outside the Palace of Justice. The statue designed by Calude Goutin replaces an earlier version given to Metz by the Knights of Columbus in 1920, and which the Nazis ordered melted down to be made into ammunition during their World War II occupation of the city. Metz was the last place Lafayette was stationed before sailing to the New World in 1777 to fight in the American Revolution.

By Rick Haverinen

The unveiling of a statue allowed the 80th Area Support Group command chaplain to reveal intricate ties with multiple families.

Chaplain (Col.) Sidney Marceaux is a senior Catholic priest, a Monsignor. That's one family. He's also a Fourth Degree member of Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal group. That makes two families. Of course, he's a U.S. Army chaplain, another family. And he has a great granduncle generations back who was an officer in the French Army during the late 1700s, who eventually was promoted to general and who was killed by the Austrian Army in 1796. Count at least four "families."

All these associations of Marceaux were tightly woven together the weekend of November 20 in Metz, France, by more than 228 years of fate, history and luck.

Almost every American school pupil has heard the story of Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis of Lafayette, who risked his life to help lead Americans in fighting the British during the Revolutionary War. Fate put him in Metz at the start of the U.S. struggle for independence as a 19 year-old captain

in the French Army. King George III of England had a politically-incorrect brother, the Duke of Gloucester, who cheered for the unruly colonists in America. King George sent his troublesome brother into a gentle banishment in Italy in 1775, but enroute, Gloucester paused in Metz for a dinner that was attended by



Chaplain (Col.) Sidney Marceaux wears his Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus baldric.

Lafayette. Gloucester so infused the young French officer with the ideal of the American struggle for liberty, that Lafayette recalled,

"The first time I heard the name America, I liked it. The instant I heard that she was fighting for her liberty, I burned with desire to pour out my blood for her."

That quotation, carved in French on the pedestal that supports the new statue of Lafayette in Metz, pretty well captures the young officer's enthusiasm. He bought a ship, arrived in North Carolina in July 1777, was made a major general in the American Army, was a favorite of George Washington, and he was present when Lord Cornwallis surrendered his forces at Yorktown.

Lafayette may be the all-time favorite French national in America.

Fast forward to 1919 as World War I has been laid to rest for one short year. The Knights of Columbus in the U.S. want to honor Lafayette, and the valiant French of course, by erecting a statue of him in Metz, where he first heard the bugle call of liberty. A ship was loaded with the 17-foot statue and 235 Knights, and the bronze rendering of Lafayette

on horseback was installed in Metz Aug. 21, 1920, attended by thousands.

Leap ahead another 20 years. France is occupied by Nazis, who are not remembered for respectful behavior.

"When the Germans occupied Metz, they pulled down the statue, melted it, and turned it into ammunition," Marceaux said.

The U.S. 95th Infantry Div. finally expelled the German forces from Metz on Nov. 19, 1944.

In July 1983 a French-American bicycle club, the "Lafayette Riders," ended a tour in Metz at the site next to the Palace of Justice where the statue once stood. The riders resolve to return the likeness of their club's hero to Metz.

Shortly after, the club meets up with "Lady Lafayette."

"I was bicycling my first time ever alone in France and I met the group," said RobinJeanne Parks of San Diego, "and they introduced me to the historic Lafayette. And they asked me if I would be willing to represent Lafayette in America and raise funds to help restore the statue."

Parks returned home to the States and took off on her bicycle. By selling souvenir shirts and medallions, she was able to send \$65,000 back to her bicycle touring club in France over a ten-year period. Finally the club crossed paths with the Catholic chaplain.

"I first met the Lafayette Riders in 1998 in Mons, Belgium," Marceaux remembers. Marceaux was as taken with the group and their mission as Lafayette was affected with Gloucester's enthusiasm about American independence. Another family tie was forged.

The City of Metz and a host of other Franco-American friendship groups finally scraped together around Euro 160,000 needed to erect the new Lafayette statue and the commission was awarded to Metz sculptor Claude Goutin.

The city and the various groups agreed to unveil the new Lafayette statue Nov. 20, during the four-day celebration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Metz by the 95th Inf. Div.



Lafayette

"I'm here to represent the 80th Area Support Group and also the Knights of Columbus since I'm a Fourth Degree Knight," Marceaux said.

"Tomorrow they're having a solemn High Mass at the Cathedral of St. Etienne and the Mass is being celebrated in thanksgiving for the freedom of the city of Metz by the Americans. I have been invited to be one of the concelebrants. I will be there at the altar saying Mass with the



Sculptor Claude Goutin autographs a program following the Nov. 20 unveiling of his Lafayette statue.

Archbishop of Metz."

Marceaux didn't discover a literal family link until he was there in Metz for the weekend.

"I had no idea that my ancestor, Maj. Gen. François de Gravier Marceaux as a young Soldier, 17 years old, had his first posting to the garrison in Metz, where he served with Lafayette," Marceaux said, "and I discovered that by agreeing to be a part of this celebration. This came back to me. The more one meets other people halfway, the more one tries to see similarities in each other instead of differences, the closer we become. And we become better people because of that."

Austrian escaped Nazi occupation, fought for U.S.

By Rick Haverinen

George Hauser didn't quite make it to the Nov. 19, 1944 liberation of Metz, France.

"I didn't get as far as Metz because I was wounded Nov. 15 north of here and evacuated with a serious leg injury that kept me in the hospital for four years," Hauser said.

Hauser was with a tour of 95th Inf. Div. veterans attending the unveiling of a statue of Lafayette in Metz Nov. 20 this

year. Metz put together four days of ceremonies to thank Americans for the city's liberation 60 years ago.

"I think it's remarkable," Hauser said. "It's very emotional really, to remember all those who didn't make it."

Hauser might not have survived the war if not for some very good luck.

"I was born in Austria," Hauser said, "and I was about 16 when through some miraculous circumstances we were

able to leave in 1939, about a year after the Anschluss, first to England and then to the States. I came with my parents. I mean, I lost about 28 members of my parents' siblings and their descendents. They were killed in concentration camps."

Hauser went into the U.S. Army in the middle of 1943 and did his training at Fort Benning, Ga. First assigned to the Army's Specialized Training Program, Hauser studied at the Univ. of Pittsburgh.

"The whole program was dismantled," Hauser said, "and in my case it was the 95th Division. We went overseas, to England

first, and then to France. About this area I remember mostly cold, wet and mud. It was pretty rough being in those foxholes because I was in a rifle company, and we were not too happy with our physical circumstances."

Did Hitler's treatment of so-called "undesirables" affect his war commitment?

"At first you felt even more that this evil had to be exterminated - that's the appropriate word in this case," Hauser said. "It's just fortunate that it ended the way it did. I have thought about it very often and I cannot imagine what would have happened if we hadn't won."



Hauser

Brussels Community Calendar

NSA Multi Crafts Center: Every Thursday framing class at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Beginner Ceramic Pouring (by appointment only), Dec. 12 & 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Jewelry Class (pre-registration required) on Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m. For registration call DSN 368-9629.

NSA Auto Craft Shop: Motor Automotive classes every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. (by appointment only). Auto Craft winter vehicle check every Friday, by appointment only, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Automotive class for dummies every Thursday, by appointment only, 7-9 p.m. To register or info: DSN 368-9743.

ACS Information Desk now located in NSA bldg. 4, 3rd floor; Metro Madness class Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Toddler Play Group every Tuesday, CYS multipurpose room, 10 a.m.-noon through Dec. 14 (closed Dec. 15-Jan. 10); starting Jan. 11, Play Group meets Tuesdays and Fridays, call 02 717-9684; for info on payday loans, call the ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager at 02 717-9698. Info/sign up: 02 717-9783.

NSA Chapel - Protestant Worship,

Sundays, 10:45 a.m.; Gospel Service, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.; Gospel Sunday School, 11 a.m., NSA Conference Room; Sunday School for all ages every Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Men of the Chapel meet the first Saturday each month at 9 a.m., NSA Chapel; Protestant Women of the Chapel study, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Fellowship Hall; Children's Christmas Program Dec. 5, 6 p.m. Info: 02 717-9708.

Outdoor Recreation Trips Charles Dickens Christmas Market and London shopping Dec. 4-5; Aachen and Monchau Christmas Markets Dec. 11, 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Cologne Christmas Market Dec. 18, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Info or signup: Leon Dillien 474 68-3544 or 02 717-9775.

Three Star Lounge Hours: Thursday 7 p.m.-midnight, Friday 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday 7 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday 7-11 p.m.; Lounge closed Dec. 9; Movie Night every Thursday, 7:15 p.m. with free popcorn; Right Arm Night Dec. 10, 5 p.m., free wings while they last; Spades Tournament Dec. 11, 7 p.m., sign up by Dec. 4; Pool Tournament Dec. 17, 8 p.m.; Children's Christmas Party Dec. 18, 4 p.m. Info: 02

Servicemembers help St. Nicholas find toys



Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers, or BOSS, tours U.S. housing areas Dec. 4 to collect toys to be given to children confined to an Ath hospital during the holidays. Please leave your unwrapped toy donation outside your front door. You can also place donations in the BOSS Toy Drive collection box in Building 207 on SHAPE. Info: DSN 423-4257, 065 44-4257, or Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Rogers, 80th Area Support Group, DSN 361-5410.

717-9732 or 9639.

New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Three Star Lounge, DSN 368-9822.

Sports and Fitness Ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; ongoing individual MEDEX training. Info: 02 717-9667.

Child and Youth Services registration ongoing for Jr. NBA/WNBA basketball, tips off in Dec., players receive jersey. Health assessment required through March.

Cost \$40 first child; \$37 each additional. Coaches needed. Info: 02 717-9649.

BOSS - The Brussels Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) aims to improve quality of life for the single soldier through recreation and leisure activities and volunteering in the community. Info: 02/707-5343 or email Edward.Garcia@benelux.army.mil.

Library Open Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 12-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Storytime post-

poned until further notice. Info: 02 717-9705.

Consignment Shop - Open Tuesdays (sales only), Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; closed Dec. 18-Jan. 4. Info: 02 717-9724.

Installation Volunteer Coordinator - Help is needed for: NSA Fitness Center receptionist and administrative support, ACS Financial Readiness Program instructor, ACS AFAP Conference Assistant, and International Dinner Committee Chair. Info: 02 717-9679.

254th BSB Local Calendar

A free winter inspection service is offered by the 254th BSB military police, the Royal Marechaussee (KMAR) and the Vehicle Processing Center Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the VPC, Building 27. Marechaussee and MPs explain Dutch vehicle and traffic laws. This service is provided for personnel of Joint Forces Command, Geilenkirchen, Schinnen, and the Tapijn Kazerne and Maastricht and local nationals. Info: 31 45 400-7800 or 31 46 443-7555.

Marechaussee checks quarters - The Royal Marechaussee know that during holiday periods, when homes are empty, they are vulnerable to vandalism and burglary. The Marechaussee has put together a leaflet in English giving tips for holiday planning. They can check your quarters while you are on vacation. Stop by the Provost Marshal Office and fill out a card. The Marechaussee can also be seen every Thursday at the PMO in Schinnen.

Schinnen ACS Classes: Finding Employment Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon; Resume/Resumix workshop, 2-4 p.m. every Tuesday. Stress Management class, Tuesdays 1-3 p.m.; Anger Management class, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon; La Leche League meets Dec. 15, 10-11 a.m., Schinnen ACS; Life

Skills, Couples Communication Class, Dec. 28-29, 6-8 p.m., ACS Schinnen; Heerlen Hospital tour, Dec. 13, 12:30-4:30 p.m.; OB orientation, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon; and Child Safety classes every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.; Playmorning, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Schinnen Sports Center. Contact ACS, DSN 360-7500.

Schinnen ACS offers - "Don't worry be happy," Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-noon; and "AFTB 101," Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon. Minimum class size is 5. All classes are in the ACS, Building 39. Call DSN 360-7464 or 31 46 443-7464 to register.

ACS needs instructors and volunteers for Army Family Team Building. Info: DSN 360-7464 or 31 46 443-7464. Celebrate AFTB's birthday with cake and coffee Dec. 16 at the PX main entrance.

Family Bowling, Dec. 12 and 19, 1-3 p.m., Schinnen Bowling Center. Just stop by.

Midnight Mass - On Christmas Eve 1944, with the battle raging outside, a chaplain from New York celebrated mass for 300 American soldiers in the marl caves outside Maastricht. The tradition has continued ever since. The American Christmas Mass 1944 Foundation and the 254th Base Support Bn. invite the community to this historic service

Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are Euro 5 at the 254th BSB Public Affairs Office, DSN 360-7331 or 31 46 443-7331.

A flea market, offered by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, is Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Vendor tables are \$5 and vendors can keep all sale profits. Next BOSS Meeting Dec. 9 and 23, 2 p.m. Info: DSN 364-3748 or 31 45 526-3748.

Youth Services Christmas party is Dec. 17, 4 - 5:30 p.m., at the Youth Service Building H-603, Joint Force Cmd. Brunssum. Info: DSN 364-3008 or 31 45 526-3008.

Postal hours extended - The 90th Postal Company, 4th Platoon, Schinnen, has extended post office hours for holiday convenience. Hours now until Dec. 18 are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. If you have five or more prepared packages, call DSN 360-7273 or 31 46 443-7273 for an appointment, 8-9 a.m.

AFNorth International Club Charity Committee sells Rousseau chocolates as a fundraiser now through Dec. 24. Buy chocolates at Schinnen Thrift Shop, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-

or Kim, 31 46 451-6430.

Hanukkah Celebrated - The Jewish community celebrates Hanukkah Dec. 11, 4 p.m., at JFC Brunssum Chapel Centre. There's a special party for children. Please bring a dish to share. Latkes are especially welcome. RSVP: Chris Lark, 045 526-2903, or Jack Segal, 045 526-3378.

Commissary gift certificates are available at Schinnen DeCA store, online, by phone, fax or mail. The in-store certificates may only be purchased for a \$25 value, plus \$1 service charge, and can be used at any DeCA store. To purchase online, go to www.commissaries.com. Gift certificates to be donated to the Air Force Aid Society, United Service Organization or Fisher House Foundation may be purchased online.

The Alliance Players present "Frankenstein the Panto," at the AFNorth Alliance Theatre at Joint Force Command (JFC) Headquarters, Brunssum. Tickets are on sale Jan. 5. Evening performances are Feb. 4-5 and matinee performances are Feb. 5-6. Admission for NATO ID cardholders and their guests are: adults Euro 6; children Euro 4. Info: Lisa, info@allianceplayers.com or check <http://www.allianceplayers.com>

Parents Night Out - If you need a night to yourself, the 254th BSB Child Development Center takes care of your children. Parent's Night Out is 5-9 p.m. and children can be brought in their pajamas. Parent's Nights Out are Dec. 17; Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 20, and Jun. 17. Care is for children 6 weeks-12 years of age. Cost is \$12.50 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child in a family. For information call DSN 364-2575 or 45 526-2575.

A Christmas Fayre is Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., hosted by the British section at AFNorth School. Entrance fee is adults Euro 2, children are free. Includes crafts, tombola, a Santa's grotto, face painting, children's disco and more. Info: 31 45 527-8241.

Body Balance classes are Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Combines Yoga and Tai-chi, includes stretching, balancing, and exercising back, abs, to relaxing music, helps to relieve stress. Info: DSN 360-7561 or 31 45 443-7561.

AFNorth Alliance Theater



Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. Resident Evil: Apocalypse. Starring Mila Jovovich, Jared Harris. Rated R. Alice, the only surviving member of the elite military force that attempted to keep the zombies confined to the underground facility, finds herself teaming up with Jill Valentine and others to stop the zombies from spreading outside of Raccoon City. To make matters worse, there is a creature named Nemesis hunting them.

Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. The Santa Claus 2. Starring Tim Allen. Rated G. Eight years after getting a crash course in the fine art of personifying Christmas, Tim Allen returns as Kris Kringle's replacement in this sequel to the 1994 hit.

8 p.m. Hero. Starring Jet Li, Zhang Ziyi. Rated PG-13. In ancient times China was divided into seven kingdoms. Qin, the king of the northern province, is under permanent threat of assassination attempts. His greatest fears are the war-

riors "Broken Sword", "Flying Snow" and "Sky". One day one of the magistrates of his kingdom enters the palace, claims that he defeated all three of the emperor's adversaries and tells his story. Dec. 10-11: *Chapel Theater Group*

Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. First Daughter. Starring Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas. Rated PG. Samantha MacKenzie wants what every college freshman desires - to experience life away from home and parents. But it's not going to be easy, because home for Sam is the White House and her dad is the President of the United States. Despite her fish-bowl existence, Sam meets and falls for James, the resident advisor in her dorm.

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski	80th Area Support Group
Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson	254th Base Support Battalion
Lt. Col. Jon M. Davis Jr.	NATO Support Activity
Public Affairs Officers and personnel	
Marie-Lise Baneton	80th Area Support Group
Lauri Garcia	254th Base Support Battalion
Rick Haverinen	Editor
(Vacant)	Writer
Sylvia Bowron	Writer



Happy Thanksgiving

SHAPE Dining Facility November 25, 2004

Thanksgiving dinner at SHAPE Dining Facility was a group effort of full-time staff and representatives from various U.S. military units who volunteered to serve. Clockwise from upper left: Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Von Ruff and Air Force Col. Dennis Matthews serve eggnog; teacher-musicians from SHAPE schools entertain; Petty Officer 2nd Class Rachel Castillo serves up entrees; Aubrey Menich, 10, and her mom Jeannie settle in after finding a table; a decorated cake includes text from the 107th Psalm; and Mare Adams and her son Noah Smith, 11, beam with a special Thanksgiving glow.

PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

Events Commemorating World War II

Concerts by the 76th Army Band - Dec. 10, 8 p.m., at Noville; Dec. 11, 8 p.m., at the Church in Florenville; Dec. 12, 7 p.m., at Rochefort, Cultural Center des Roches; Dec. 13, time and location to be confirmed, at Brugelette; Dec. 14, 8 p.m., at Malmedy, Cultural Center "Al Fraternité"; Dec. 15, in Brunssum, the Netherlands, time and location TBA, call DSN 360-1600.

60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge - Dec. 16, ceremony at the American Military Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg; Concert by the 76th Army Band at Arlon, time and location to be confirmed; Dec. 17, 11 a.m., commemoration at Houffalize; Dec. 17, 3 p.m., commemoration ceremony and evening concert, details TBA, by the 76th Army Band at La Roche.

Events in Bastogne on Dec. 18: 8:30 a.m., Historical walk departing from Café L'Europa on McAuliffe square; 10 a.m., Parade through the city and wreath laying ceremony at McAuliffe square and Patton's monument; 4 p.m., Ceremony at the

Mardasson; 5:20-6:20 p.m., Sound and light show in downtown Bastogne; Concert by the 76th Army Band, time and location to be confirmed.

Events in Bastogne on Dec. 19: 10:30 a.m., Commemorative ceremony at the Church of Noville (village close to Bastogne); 11:30 a.m. and noon, Air Drop at the Mardasson Monument; 3-5 p.m., Parade of vintage vehicles through the town of Bastogne

Christmas Eve Mass at De Scharke Cave, located near Schinnen, the Netherlands, is where U.S. soldiers were attending Christmas Mass in Dec. 1944 prior to being sent to the Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m., tickets are Euro 5 at the 254th BSB Public Affairs Office, DSN 360-7331 or 31 46 443-7331.

Commemoration of the B17 "Susan Ruth" crash, Feb. 2, 10 a.m., in the Chimay area.

For more information call the 80th Area Support Group public affairs office, DSN 361-5419 or 32 68 27-5419.

Savoring Native American culture

Misty Sneed prepares fried bread Nov. 17 at Chièvres Air Base Commissary as part of the celebration of Native American Heritage Month. Misty also dipped into the family Navajo recipe collection to treat visitors to vegetable pasole, green chili and cheese soup, and spicy meat to go with the fried bread. She got help from her mom, Barbara; sister, Linda; and husband, commissary manager Larry Sneed.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Toys, note cards, chocolates will make holidays brighter

The SHAPE and Chièvres U.S. communities have sponsored children at the orphanage La Fermette in Ath for more than 30 years.

The Orphans Program operates year round and the highlight is the Christmas party. The population of about 60 children submits two wishes for Christmas. Members of the U.S. community may sign up for a particular child. The list of wishes is at the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office in Building 30 on Daumerie Caserne.

In order to give each child one gift, the 80th ASG is selling Belgian chocolates at \$5 or 5 Euros per box and sets of eight different local etchings at \$5 or 5 Euros per set.

Leaders and staff members of 80th ASG will help Pere Noel pack his presents to be distributed to children at their homes just before Christmas. For information call DSN 361-5694 or commercial 068-275694 or email Francisca.Spook@benelux.army.mil

